

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention provides an apparatus by which organism characteristic data included in an entire image can be acquired without producing the entire image from a plurality of partial images. The apparatus detects, every time a partial image is sampled, a relative positional relationship between the partial image and a different partial image sampled already, and extracts characteristic portion data including characteristic information unique to the organism portion from the partial image. Then, the apparatus synthesizes the extracted characteristic portion data of the partial image and characteristic portion data of the different partial image based on the detected relative positional relationship of the partial image. The apparatus can be applied, for example, to an authentication apparatus which uses a sweep type fingerprint sensor.